## **Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 64**

## **RESOLUTION CHAPTER 141**

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 64—Relative to the 20-year anniversary of the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 25, 2007.]

## LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 64, Lieu. California Vietnam Veterans Memorial: 20-year anniversary.

This measure which would commemorate 2008 as the 20-year anniversary of the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial, encourages all Californians to take part in the ceremonies commemorating the 20-year anniversary, on December 10, 2008, and urges that all steps necessary to inform all Californians of the date of these ceremonies and locations of these events be taken, so that all Californians may have the opportunity to remember and honor the service, efforts, and sacrifices of Vietnam veterans, and to pay homage to those veterans who are still alive.

WHEREAS, California has the largest United States veterans' population in the nation, comprising some 3.3 million armed services veterans, which is 12.3 percent of the nationwide veteran population of nearly 27 million veterans, who represent an impressive one-fifth of California's total population; and

WHEREAS, More than 350,000 California veterans served in Vietnam, that resulted in 40,000 of them being wounded and 5,822 being killed or missing in action, which comprised more than 10 percent of the nation's total; and

WHEREAS, More California residents died in Vietnam than residents of any other state, and California veterans received more Medals of Honor, Bronze Stars, and Purple Hearts than veterans of any other state; and

WHEREAS, The history of the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial began when Herman Woods, a double amputee who served in the 1st Air Cavalry Division, United States Army (1970), returned to California from the dedication of the National Vietnam Veterans Memorial in our nation's capitol, Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Member Richard Floyd subsequently held a rally on the steps of the State Capitol to confirm community support for the measure, and when 800 people attended, he was convinced that construction of the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial was the will of the people; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Member Richard Floyd introduced Assembly Bill 650, which created the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Capitol

Res. Ch. 141 — 2 —

Park, that was signed into law by Governor Deukmejian in September, 1983; and

WHEREAS, The California Vietnam Veterans Memorial is located in the north-east section of the Capitol Park grounds of the State Capitol and is a standing tribute to the 5,822 servicemen and servicewomen killed and missing in action; and

WHEREAS, The 3,750 square foot structure lies near the World Peace Rose Garden, a new historic landmark, and is surrounded by lush greenery and other points of historical interest; and

WHEREAS, The California Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated on December 10, 1988, in Capitol Park; and

WHEREAS, There were hundreds in attendance at the dedication ceremonies; and

WHEREAS, Events surrounding the dedication were spread out over a two-day period, commencing with "Buddy Search" registrations, reunions, open houses, and concluding with the dedication ceremony in Capitol Park; and

WHEREAS, Additional activities included a five-hour reading of the Memorial names at Westminster Chapel near the park, a showing of "Dear America: Letters Home from Vietnam" at the nearby Crest Theater, and a march from Capitol Mall to the Memorial, where Brigadier General George B. Price was the keynote speaker at the dedication and Kelvin H. Hunter, Jr., a retired army colonel, was the dedication coordinator; and

WHEREAS, The newly formed Vietnam Veterans Memorial Commission was comprised of nine veterans, eight of whom served in Vietnam, including, Linda J. McClenahan, Chairperson, Leo K. Thorsness, Congressional Medal of Honor winner and Vice Chairperson, Gregory C. Green, Treasurer, Abel A. Cota, Secretary, B.T. Collins, member, Don A. Drumheller, member, Jesse G. Ugalde, member, Senator Jim Ellis, member, Assembly Member Richard E. Floyd, member and author of Assembly Bill 650, and Jerri L. Dale, Executive Officer, which led to the creation of the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the theme of which reflects the overwhelming majority of those who were killed in Vietnam, including 19-year old infantry soldiers, their youth, camaraderie, the fatigue of the war, and the American women who served, with the winning entry in the opening design competition awarded to Michael Larson, a Marine Corps Vietnam veteran, and Thomas Chytrowski; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature hereby commemorates 2008 as the 20-year anniversary of the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial, encourages all Californians to take part in the ceremonies commemorating the 20-year anniversary, to be held on December 10, 2008, including opening ceremonies, and urges that all steps necessary to inform all Californians of the date of these ceremonies and locations of these events be taken, so that all Californians may have the opportunity to remember and honor the service, efforts, and sacrifices of Vietnam veterans, and to pay homage to those veterans who are still alive; and be it further

**Res. Ch. 141** 

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly provide copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.